

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Upon entry of the present amendment, the status of the claims will be as is shown below. This listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A mail exchange system, comprising:

a plurality of terminal devices connected to one another via a communications network, each terminal device having a member information storage that stores member information of members who belong to a group that exchange mail via said communications network, said plurality of terminal devices comprising a specific member terminal, an existing member terminal, and a newly joining member terminal;

said specific member terminal including:

a participation mail receiver that receives participation mail, including member information of a member who newly joins the group, from said newly joining member terminal via said communications network;

a first member information adder that extracts the member information included in the participation mail received by said participation mail receiver and stores the extracted member information in said member information storage; and

a new member information mail transmitter that transmits a new member mail, including the member information of the newly joining member, to said existing

member terminal according to information stored in said member information storage via said communications network,

said existing member terminal including:

a new member information mail receiver that receives the new member mail;

a second member information adder that extracts the member information included in the received new member mail and stores the extracted member information in a member list in said member information storage; and

a self-information mail transmitter that transmits an existing member mail, including self-member information, to said newly joining member terminal via said communications network, and

said newly joining member terminal including:

a new participation mail transmitter that transmits the new member mail, including self-member information of the newly joining member, to said specific member terminal via said communications network;

an existing member information mail receiver that receives existing member mail from a plurality of said existing member terminals; and

a member information generator that generates entries in said member list stored in said member information storage by extracting the self-member information from the received existing member mail from said plurality of existing member terminals, other than said specific member terminal,

wherein ~~group identification information~~ a group ID, indicating the group exchanging the mail, is added to the mail to be exchanged among said terminal devices of

the members belonging to the group, the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID including user identification information of said terminal device of a member who forms the group and including a time when the group is formed, and

wherein the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID is a unique identifier for each group, is generated at said terminal device of the member who forms the group, and is generated exclusively by said terminal device.

2. (Previously Presented) The mail exchange system according to claim 1, wherein each of said terminal devices further comprises:

a withdrawal mail transmitter that transmits withdrawal mail, including information of withdrawal from the group, to said terminal devices of all members in said member list stored in said member information storage;

a withdrawal mail receiver that receives the withdrawal mail, including the information of a withdrawing member, transmitted from said withdrawal mail transmitter of said terminal device of the withdrawing member; and

a member information deleter that deletes the member information of the withdrawing member from said member list in said mail member information storage.

3. (Previously Presented) The mail exchange system according to claim 1, wherein said specific member terminal further includes an invitation mail transmitter that transmits invite mail, including information for inviting participation in the group and self-member information, to said newly joining member terminal via said communications network;

wherein said newly joining member terminal further includes an invitation mail receiver that receives the invite mail; and

wherein said member information generator further generates said member list in said member information storage based on the received invite mail.

4. (Previously Presented) The mail exchange system according to claim 1, wherein said specific member terminal further includes a second self-information mail transmitter that transmits specific member mail, including self-member information, to said newly joining member terminal in response to the participation mail received by said participation mail receiver;

wherein said newly joining member terminal further includes a specific member information mail receiver that receives the specific member mail, including the self-member information of the specific member; and

wherein said member information generator generates said member list stored in said member information storage based on the specific member mail received by said specific member information mail receiver.

5. (Previously Presented) The mail exchange system according to claim 1, wherein said member list in said member information storage stores member information of members, who belong to the group.

6. (Previously Presented) The mail exchange system according to claim 5, wherein said user identification information that uniquely specifies each user is allocated to each of said terminal devices.

7. (Previously Presented) The mail exchange system according to claim 1, wherein each of said terminal devices includes a cellular phone.

8. (Currently Amended) A mail exchange terminal device for exchanging mail with other mail exchange terminal devices via a communications network, comprising:

a member information storage that stores member information of a member, who belongs to a group exchanging mail;

a mail receiver that receives new member mail, including member information of a member who newly joins the group, from another mail exchange terminal device via said communications network;

a member information adder that extracts the member information included in the received new member mail and stores the extracted member information in a member list stored in said member information storage; and

a mail transmitter that transmits contact mail, including self-member information to said mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member via said communications network, whereby said mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member generates entries in said member list by extracting the self-member information from contact mail received from a plurality of mail exchange terminal devices of existing members, the existing members being other than a specific member that sent an invite mail to said mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member,

wherein ~~group identification information~~ a group ID, indicating the group exchanging the mail, is added to the mail to be exchanged among said terminal devices of

the members belonging to the group, the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID including user identification information of said terminal device of a member who forms the group and including a time when the group is formed, and

wherein the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID is a unique identifier for each group, is generated at said terminal device of the member who forms the group, and is generated exclusively by said terminal device.

9. (Previously Presented) The mail exchange terminal device according to claim 8, wherein the received new member mail is transmitted from said mail exchange terminal device of the specific member, who belongs to the group, to said terminal device of each other member, who belongs to the group, according to said member list stored in said member information storage.

10. (Currently Amended) A mail exchange terminal device for exchanging mail with other mail exchange terminal devices via a communications network, comprising:

a member information storage that stores member information of a member, who belongs to a group for exchanging mail;

a mail receiver that receives participation mail, including member information of a member, who newly joins in the group, from a mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member via said communications network;

a member information adder that extracts the member information included in the received mail and stores the extracted member information in a member list stored in said member information storage; and

a mail transmitter that transmits new member mail including the member information of the newly joining member to terminal devices of other existing members according to said member list stored in said member information storage via said communications network, wherein the other existing members transmit contact mail, including member information, to said mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member so that the newly joining member generates an entry in said member list by extracting the member information from the contact mail of the other existing members, other than a specific member that sent an invite mail to said mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member,

wherein ~~group identification information~~ a group ID, indicating the group exchanging the mail, is added to the mail to be exchanged among said terminal devices of the members belonging to the group, the ~~group identification information~~ group ID including user identification information of said terminal device of a member who forms the group and including a time when the group is formed, and

wherein the ~~group identification information~~ group ID is a unique identifier for each group, is generated at said terminal device of the member who forms the group, and is generated exclusively by said terminal device.

11. (Currently Amended) A mail exchange terminal device for exchanging mail with other mail exchange terminal devices via a communications network, comprising:

an invitation mail receiver that receives invite mail for inviting participation in a group for exchanging mail that is already formed by a user of a specific mail exchange terminal device via said communications network;

a mail transmitter that transmits participation mail, including self-member information of a newly joining member, to said specific mail exchange terminal device via said communications network at the time of joining the group in response to participation invited by the received invite mail;

an existing member information mail receiver that receives contact mail including member information of other existing members, which is transmitted from mail exchange terminal devices of other existing members via said communications network in response to the participation mail transmitted to said mail exchange terminal device of the specific member; and

a member information generator that generates in a member information storage a member list that stores member information of a member, who belongs to the group, based on the received invite mail and the received contact mail, wherein an entry in said member list is generated from member information extracted from the received contact mail, the received contact mail being received from said mail exchange terminal devices of the other existing members,

wherein ~~group-identification information~~ a group ID, indicating the group exchanging the mail, is added to the mail to be exchanged among said terminal devices of the members belonging to the group, the ~~group-identification information~~ group ID including user identification information of said terminal device of a member who forms the group and including a time when the group is formed, and

wherein the ~~group-identification information~~ group ID is a unique identifier for each group, is generated at said terminal device of the member who forms the group, and is generated exclusively by said terminal device.

12. (Currently Amended) A mail exchange terminal device for exchanging mail with other mail exchange terminal devices via a communications network, comprising:

a member information storage that stores member information of a member, who belongs to a group for exchanging mail;

a mail transmitter that transmits mail to a mail exchange terminal device of another member, who belongs to the group, via said communications network according to the member information stored in said member information storage;

a withdrawal mail transmitter that transmits withdrawal mail, including information of withdrawal from the group, to mail exchange terminal devices of all other members listed in the stored member information via said communications network;

a withdrawal mail receiver that receives withdrawal mail, including information, which indicates that another member is withdrawing from the group, from another mail exchange terminal device via said communications network; and

a member information deleter that deletes member information of all members from said member information storage belonging to the group in response to the withdrawal mail transmitter transmitting the withdrawal mail, wherein the member information deleter is configured to delete a member information in the member information storage corresponding to the withdrawing member based on the received withdrawal mail,

wherein ~~group identification information~~ a group ID, indicating the group exchanging the mail, is added to the mail to be exchanged among said terminal devices of the members belonging to the group, the ~~group identification information~~ group ID

including user identification information of said terminal device of a member who forms the group and including a time when the group is formed, and

wherein the ~~group identification information~~ group ID is a unique identifier for each group, is generated at said terminal device of the member who forms the group, and is generated exclusively by said terminal device.

13. (Currently Amended) A mail exchange terminal device for exchanging mail with other mail exchange terminal devices via a communications network, comprising a memory that stores a program and data, a processor that executes said program, and a communications device that communicates with other mail exchange terminal devices, wherein said program stored in memory causes said processor to execute:

storing member information of existing members, who belong to a group for exchanging mail, in the memory;

causing the communications device to receive a contact mail, including member information of a member who newly joins the group, from another mail exchange terminal device via the communications network;

extracting the member information included in the received contact mail and storing the extracted member information in the memory; and

causing the communications device to transmit invite mail including self-member information to the mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member via the communications network, whereby the mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member generates entries in a member list by extracting the self-member information from the invite mail received from the communications device, the invite

mail being received from existing members other than a specific member that sent an invite mail to the mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member,

wherein ~~group identification information~~ a group ID, indicating the group exchanging the mail, is added to the mail to be exchanged among the terminal devices of the members belonging to the group, the ~~group identification information~~ group ID including user identification information of the terminal device of a member who forms the group and including a time when the group is formed, and

wherein the ~~group identification information~~ group ID is a unique identifier for each group, is generated at the terminal device of the member who forms the group, and is generated exclusively by the terminal device.

14. (Currently Amended) A mail exchange terminal device for exchanging mail with other mail exchange terminal devices via a communications network, comprising a memory that stores a program and data, a processor that executes said program, and a communications device that communicates with other mail exchange terminal devices, wherein said program stored in memory causes said processor to execute:

storing member information of existing members, who belong to a group for exchanging mail, in the memory;

causing the communications device to receive a contact mail, including member information of a member who newly joins the group, from a mail exchange terminal device of a newly joining member via the communications network;

extracting the member information included in the received contact mail and storing the extracted member information in the memory; and

causing the communications device to transmit new member mail, including the member information of the newly joining member, to a plurality of mail exchange terminal devices of the existing members via the communications network, whereby the mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member generates entries in a member list by extracting member information from contact mail received from the plurality of mail exchange terminal devices of the existing members, the existing members being other than a member that sent an invite mail to the newly joining member,

wherein ~~group-identification-information~~ a group ID, indicating the group exchanging the mail, is added to the mail to be exchanged among the terminal devices of the members belonging to the group, the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID including user identification information of the terminal device of a member who forms the group and including a time when the group is formed, and

wherein the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID is a unique identifier for each group, is generated at the terminal device of the member who forms the group, and is generated exclusively by the terminal device.

15. (Currently Amended) A mail exchange terminal device for exchanging mail with other mail exchange terminal devices via a communications network, comprising a memory that stores a program and data, a processor that executes said program, and a communications device that communicates with other mail exchange terminal devices, wherein said program stored in memory causes said processor to execute:

causing the communications device to receive an invitation mail inviting participation in a group, which is already formed by users of other mail exchange terminal devices, from a mail exchange terminal device of a specific member via the communications network;

causing the communications device to transmit participation mail, including self-member information of a newly joining member, to the mail exchange terminal device of the specific member via the communications network at the time of joining the group where participation was invited by the received invitation mail;

causing the communications device to receive contact mail, which is transmitted from the mail exchange terminal devices of other existing members via the communications network in response to the mail transmitted to the mail exchange terminal device of the specific member, and includes member information of an existing member; and

storing member information of members, who belong to the group, in the memory based on the received invitation mail and the received contact mail, by extracting member information from the received contact mail and generating an entry in a memory list for a member corresponding to the extracted member information, the received contact mail being received from the mail exchange terminal devices of the other existing members, other than the mail exchange terminal device of the specific member,

wherein ~~group identification information~~ a group ID, indicating the group exchanging the mail, is added to the mail to be exchanged among the terminal devices of the members belonging to the group, the ~~group identification information~~ group ID

including user identification information of the terminal device of a member who forms the group and including a time when the group is formed, and

wherein the ~~group identification information~~ group ID is a unique identifier for each group, is generated at the terminal device of the member who forms the group, and is generated exclusively by the terminal device.

16. (Currently Amended) A mail exchange terminal device for exchanging mail with other mail exchange terminal devices via a communications network, comprising a memory that stores a program and data, a processor that executes said program, and a communications device that communicates with other mail exchange terminal devices, wherein said program stored in memory causes said processor to execute:

storing member information of existing members, who belong to a group where mail is exchanged, in the memory;

transmitting mail to mail exchange terminal devices of other members who belong to the group, via the communications network according to the stored member information;

causing the communications device to transmit a withdrawal mail, including information of withdrawal from the group, to the mail exchange terminal devices of all other members according to the stored member information via the communications network;

causing the communications device to receive the withdrawal mail, including information, indicating that another member is withdrawing from the group, from another mail exchange terminal device via the communications network; and

deleting member information of all members from the member information storage belonging to the group in response to the communications device transmitting the withdrawal mail, and deleting member information of the another member from the memory in response to the communications device receiving the withdrawal mail indicating that another member is withdrawing from the group,

wherein ~~group-identification-information~~ a group ID, indicating the group exchanging the mail, is added to the mail to be exchanged among the terminal devices of the members belonging to the group, the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID including user identification information of the terminal device of a member who forms the group and including a time when the group is formed, and

wherein the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID is a unique identifier for each group, is generated at the terminal device of the member who forms the group, and is generated exclusively by the terminal device.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for exchanging mail among terminal devices connected to one another via a communications network, each terminal device having a member information storage that stores member information of members who belong to a group for exchanging mail, comprising:

transmitting participation mail, including member information of a member who newly joins the group, to a terminal device of a specific member from the terminal device of the newly joining member via the communications network;

receiving the participation mail at the terminal device of the specific member;

extracting the member information of the newly joining member from the received participation mail at the terminal device of the specific member and storing the extracted member information in the storage;

transmitting new member mail, including the member information of the newly joining member, to terminal devices of other existing members from the terminal device of the specific member via the communications network according to the member information stored in the storage of the terminal device of the specific member;

receiving the new member mail at the terminal devices of the other existing members;

extracting the member information of the newly joining member from the new member mail received from the terminal device of the specific member at the terminal devices of the other existing members and storing the extracted member information in the storages of the terminal devices;

transmitting contact mail including the member information of the existing members to the terminal device of the new member from the terminal devices of the existing members via the communications network;

receiving the contact mail at the terminal device of the new member; and

extracting the member information of the existing members from the received contact mail at the terminal device of the new member and storing the extracted member information in the storage as a plurality of entries, wherein each entry is generated in response to an individual contact mail received from an associated individual terminal device of an existing member, other than the specific member,

wherein ~~group-identification information~~ a group ID, indicating the group exchanging the mail, is added to the mail to be exchanged among the terminal devices of the members belonging to the group, the ~~group-identification information~~ group ID including user identification information of the terminal device of a member who forms the group and including a time when the group is formed, and

wherein the ~~group-identification information~~ group ID is a unique identifier for each group, is generated at the terminal device of the member who forms the group, and is generated exclusively by the terminal device.

18. (Previously Presented) The mail exchange method according to claim 17, further comprising transmitting withdrawal mail including information, indicating that a member corresponding to one of the terminal devices is withdrawing from the group, to the other of the terminal devices from the withdrawing terminal device according to the stored member information;

wherein the withdrawal mail is received at each of the other of the terminal devices; and

wherein the member information corresponding to the received withdrawal mail is deleted from the member information storage of each of the other of the terminal devices.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which a program to be executed by each mail exchange terminal is recorded to exchange mail among a plurality of mail exchange terminal devices connected to one another via a communications network, said program causing a computer to execute:

storing member information of existing members, who belong to a group for exchanging mail, in a memory;

causing a communications device to receive a contact mail, including member information of a member who newly joins the group, from another mail exchange terminal device via the communications network;

extracting the member information included in the received contact mail and storing the extracted member information in the memory; and

causing the communications device to transmit invite mail, including self-member information, to a mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member via the communications network, whereby the mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member generates entries in a member list by extracting the self-member information from the invite mail received from the communications device, the invite mail being received from existing members other than a specific member that sent a participation invitation mail to the mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member,

wherein ~~group-identification-information~~ a group ID, indicating the group exchanging the mail, is added to the mail to be exchanged among the terminal devices of the members belonging to the group, the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID including user identification information of the terminal device of a member who forms the group and including a time when the group is formed, and

wherein the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID is a unique identifier for each group, is generated at the terminal device of the member who forms the group, and is generated exclusively by the terminal device.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium including a program to be executed by each of a plurality of mail exchange terminal devices to exchange mail among the plurality of mail exchange terminal devices connected to one another via a communications network, said program causing a computer to execute:

storing member information of existing members, who belong to a group for exchanging mail, in a memory;

causing a communications device to receive a contact mail, including member information of a member who newly joins the group, from a mail exchange terminal device of a newly joining member via the communications network;

extracting the member information included in the received contact mail and storing the extracted member information in the memory; and

causing the communications device to transmit new member mail including the member information of the newly joining member to a plurality of mail exchange terminal devices of the existing members stored in the memory via the communications network, whereby the mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member generates entries in a member list by extracting member information from contact mail received from the plurality of mail exchange terminal devices of the existing members, the existing members being other than a specific member that sent an invite mail to the mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member,

wherein ~~group-identification-information~~ a group ID, indicating the group exchanging the mail, is added to the mail to be exchanged among the terminal devices of the members belonging to the group, the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID

including user identification information of the terminal device of a member who forms the group and including a time when the group is formed, and

wherein the ~~group identification information~~ group ID is a unique identifier for each group, is generated at the terminal device of the member who forms the group, and is generated exclusively by the terminal device.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium including a program to be executed by each of a plurality of mail exchange terminal devices to exchange mail among the plurality of mail exchange terminal devices connected to one another via a communications network, said program causing a computer to execute:

causing a communications device to receive an invitation mail inviting participation in a group, previously formed by users of other mail exchange terminal devices, from another mail exchange terminal device of a specific member via the communications network;

causing the communications device to transmit participation mail, including self-member information of a newly joining member, to the mail exchange terminal device of the specific member via the communications network at the time of joining the group where participation was invited by the received invitation mail;

causing the communications device to receive contact mail, which is transmitted from mail exchange terminal devices of other existing members via the communications network in response to the participation mail transmitted to the mail exchange terminal device of the specific member, and includes member information of the other existing members; and

storing member information of members, who belong to the group, in the memory based on the received invitation mail and the received contact mail, by extracting self-member information from the contact mail and generating an entry in a memory list for a member corresponding to the extracted self-member information, the received contact mail being received from the mail exchange terminal devices of the other existing members, other than the mail exchange terminal device of the specific member,

wherein ~~group-identification-information~~ a group ID, indicating the group exchanging the mail, is added to the mail to be exchanged among the terminal devices of the members belonging to the group, the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID including user identification information of the terminal device of a member who forms the group and including a time when the group is formed, and

wherein the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID is a unique identifier for each group, is generated at the terminal device of the member who forms the group, and is generated exclusively by the terminal device.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium including a program to be executed by each of a plurality of mail exchange terminal devices to exchange mail among the plurality of mail exchange terminal devices connected to one another via a communications network, wherein each mail exchange terminal device comprises a communications device, said program causing a computer to execute:

storing member information of existing members, who belong to a group for exchanging mail, in a memory;

transmitting mail to mail exchange terminal devices of other members, who belong to the group, via the communications network according to the stored member information;

causing the communications device to transmit a withdrawal mail, including information of withdrawal from the group, to the mail exchange terminal devices of the other members according to the stored member information via the communications network;

causing the communications device to receive the withdrawal mail, including information indicating that another member is withdrawing from the group, from another mail exchange terminal device via the communications network; and

deleting member information of all members from the member information storage belonging to the group in response to the communications device transmitting the withdrawal mail, and deleting member information of the another member from the memory in response to the communications device receiving the withdrawal mail indicating that another member is withdrawing from the group,

wherein ~~group-identification information~~ a group ID, indicating the group exchanging the mail, is added to the mail to be exchanged among the terminal devices of the members belonging to the group, the ~~group-identification information~~ group ID including user identification information of the terminal device of a member who forms the group and including a time when the group is formed, and

wherein the ~~group-identification information~~ group ID is a unique identifier for each group, is generated at the terminal device of the member who forms the group, and is generated exclusively by the terminal device.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium for storing a program to be executed by each of a plurality of mail exchange terminal devices to exchange mail among the plurality of mail exchange terminal devices connected to one another via a communications network, wherein the computer readable medium comprises:

a storing code segment that stores member information of existing members, who belong to a group for exchanging mail in a memory;

a causing code segment that causes a communications device to receive a contact mail including member information of a member, who newly joins the group, from another mail exchange terminal device via the communications network;

an extracting code segment that extracts the member information included in the received contact mail stores the extracted member information in the memory; and

a causing code segment that causes the communications device to transmit invite mail, including self-member information, to a mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member via the communications network, whereby the mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member generates entries in a member list by extracting member information from invite mail received from a plurality of mail exchange terminal devices of existing members, the existing members being other than a specific member that sent a participation invitation mail to the mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member,

wherein ~~group-identification information~~ a group ID, indicating the group exchanging the mail, is added to the mail to be exchanged among the terminal devices of the members belonging to the group, the ~~group-identification information~~ group ID

including user identification information of the terminal device of a member who forms the group and including a time when the group is formed, and

wherein the ~~group identification information~~ group ID is a unique identifier for each group, is generated at the terminal device of the member who forms the group, and is generated exclusively by the terminal device.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium for storing a program to be executed by each of a plurality of mail exchange terminal devices to exchange mail among the plurality of mail exchange terminal devices connected to one another via a communications network, wherein the computer readable medium comprises:

a storing code segment that stores member information of existing members, who belong to a group for exchanging mail, in a memory;

a causing code segment that causes a communications device to receive a contact mail, including member information of a member who newly joins the group, from a mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member via the communications network;

an extracting code segment that extracts the member information included in the received contact mail and stores the extracted member information in the memory; and

a causing code segment that causes the communications device to transmit new member mail, including the member information of the newly joining member, to a plurality of mail exchange terminal devices of the existing members via the communications network, whereby the mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member generates entries in a member list by extracting member information from contact mail received from the plurality of mail exchange terminal devices of the

existing members, the existing members being other than a specific member that sent an invitation mail to the mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member,

wherein ~~group identification information~~ a group ID, indicating the group exchanging the mail, is added to the mail to be exchanged among the terminal devices of the members belonging to the group, the ~~group identification information~~ group ID including user identification information of the terminal device of a member who forms the group and including a time when the group is formed, and

wherein the ~~group identification information~~ group ID is a unique identifier for each group, is generated at the terminal device of the member who forms the group, and is generated exclusively by the terminal device.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium for storing a program to be executed by each of a plurality of mail exchange terminal devices to exchange mail among the plurality of mail exchange terminal devices connected to one another via a communications network, wherein the computer readable medium comprises:

a causing code segment that causes a communications device to receive an invitation mail inviting participation in a group, previously formed by users of other mail exchange terminal devices, from a mail exchange terminal device of a specific member via the communications network;

a causing code segment that causes the communications device to transmit participation mail, including self-member information of a newly joining member, to the mail exchange terminal device of the specific member via the communications network at the time of joining the group where participation was invited by the received invitation mail;

a causing code segment that causes the communications device to receive contact mail, which is transmitted from mail exchange terminal devices of other existing members via the communications network in response to the participation mail being transmitted to the mail exchange terminal device of the specific member, wherein the contact mail includes member information of the other existing members; and

a storing code segment that stores member information of members, who belong to the group, in a memory based on the received invitation mail and the received contact mail, by extracting self-member information from the contact mail and generating an entry in a memory list for a member corresponding to the extracted self-member information, the received contact mail being received from the mail exchange terminal devices of the other existing members, other than the mail exchange terminal device of the specific member,

wherein ~~group-identification-information~~ a group ID, indicating the group exchanging the mail, is added to the mail to be exchanged among the terminal devices of the members belonging to the group, the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID including user identification information of the terminal device of a member who forms the group and including a time when the group is formed, and

wherein the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID is a unique identifier for each group, is generated at the terminal device of the member who forms the group, and is generated exclusively by the terminal device.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium for storing a program to be executed by each mail exchange terminal device to exchange mail among a plurality of mail exchange terminal devices connected to one another via a communications

network, wherein each mail exchange terminal device comprises a communications device, the computer readable medium comprising:

- a storing code segment that stores member information of existing members, who belong to a group for exchanging mail, in a memory;

- a transmitting code segment that transmits mail to mail exchange terminal devices of other members, who belong to the group, via the communications network according to the stored member information;

- a causing code segment that causes the communications device to transmit a withdrawal mail, including information of withdrawal from the group, to the mail exchange terminal devices of the other members according to the stored member information via the communications network;

- a causing code segment that causes the communications device to receive the withdrawal mail, including information indicating that another member is withdrawing from the group, from another mail exchange terminal device via the communications network; and

- a deleting code segment that deletes member information of all members from the member information storage belonging to the group in response to the communications device transmitting the withdrawal mail, and deleting member information of the another member from the memory in response to the communications device receiving the withdrawal mail indicating that the another member is withdrawing from the group,

wherein ~~group-identification-information~~ a group ID, indicating the group exchanging the mail, is added to the mail to be exchanged among the terminal devices of the members belonging to the group, the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID

including user identification information of the terminal device of a member who forms the group and including a time when the group is formed, and

wherein the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID is a unique identifier for each group, is generated at the terminal device of the member who forms the group, and is generated exclusively by the terminal device.

27. (Currently Amended) The mail exchange system according to claim 1, wherein the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID consists essentially of the user identification information of the terminal device of the member who forms the group and at least one of the time when the group is formed and a date when the group is formed.

28. (Currently Amended) The mail exchange terminal device according to claim 8, wherein the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID consists essentially of the user identification information of the terminal device of the member who forms the group and at least one of the time when the group is formed and a date when the group is formed.

29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID consists essentially of the user identification information of the terminal device of the member who forms the group and at least one of the time when the group is formed and a date when the group is formed.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 19, wherein the ~~group-identification-information~~ group ID consists essentially of

the user identification information of the terminal device of the member who forms the group and at least one of the time when the group is formed and a date when the group is formed.